

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Amy C. Tolcin, Zinc Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4940, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: atolcin@usgs.gov

Hodan A. Fatah (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-4971
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: hfatah@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ZINC IN JULY 2011

Domestic mine production (recoverable) of zinc in July 2011 was 70,000 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Average daily mine production in July was 2,260 t, 17% greater than that in June 2011 and 7% higher than that in July 2010.

The Platts Metals Week average price for North American Special High Grade (SHG) zinc for July 2011 was 115.93 cents

per pound, 7% higher than the June 2011 average price and 32% higher than the July 2010 average price. The average London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price of SHG zinc for July 2011 was \$2,389.99 per metric ton, 7% higher than the average price in June 2011 and 30% higher than the average price in July 2010. During July 2011, global LME stocks of SHG zinc increased by 28,575 t to 889,325 t.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ZINC STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2010 ^p	2011		
	January– December	June	July	January– July
Production:				
Mine, zinc content of concentrate ²	748,000	59,900	72,400	455,000
Mine, recoverable zinc ²	723,000	57,900	70,000	439,000
Smelter, refined zinc ^{e, 3}	248,000	21,800	21,800	153,000
Consumption of refined zinc:				
Apparent ⁴	919,000	87,200	66,600	522,000
Reported ⁵	234,000	21,300	20,600	148,000
Reported stocks of refined zinc, end of period, producer and consumer ⁵	37,900	50,500	54,500	54,500
Shipments of zinc metal from Government stockpile	1	--	--	--
Imports for consumption:				
Refined zinc	671,000	67,900	49,600	399,000
Oxide (gross weight)	94,300	7,510	9,630	57,200
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	374	363	15,900
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	15,600	1,460	1,610	10,300
Exports:				
Refined zinc	4,200	1,220	816	13,000
Oxide (gross weight)	16,700	2,050	1,470	13,600
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	18,700	157,000	240,000
Waste and scrap (gross weight)	77,900	7,530	7,080	50,100
Price:⁶				
London Metal Exchange cash, average, dollars per metric ton	2,160.31	2,230.08	2,389.99	2,333.81
Platts Metals Week North American, average, cents per pound	101.98	108.38 ^r	115.93	112.10

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; except prices; may not add to totals shown.

²Reported zinc content in both zinc and lead concentrates.

³Includes zinc metal used to manufacture zinc oxide.

⁴Smelter production plus imports minus exports plus shipments from Government stockpile plus stock change.

⁵Includes estimate for those respondents that report annually.

⁶Special High Grade Zinc.

TABLE 2
MINE PRODUCTION OF ZINC IN THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

Period	Zinc content	Recoverable
2010: ^P		
July	67,500	65,200
August	62,700	60,600
September	62,100	60,000
October	67,600	65,300
November	51,000	49,300
December	64,500	62,300
January–December	748,000	723,000
2011:		
January	70,900	68,500
February	57,000	54,900
March	64,300	62,100
April	61,700	59,600
May	68,500	66,200
June	59,900	57,900
July	72,400	70,000
January–July	455,000	439,000

^PPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes the zinc content in both lead and zinc concentrates.

TABLE 3
APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF REFINED ZINC ACCORDING
TO INDUSTRY USE AND PRODUCT¹

(Metric tons)

	2010 ^P January– December	2011		
		June	July	January– July
Galvanizing:				
Sheet and strip	410,000	39,400	31,600	243,000
Other	151,000	14,300	10,100	81,700
Total	561,000	53,700	41,700	325,000
Brass and bronze	158,000	13,500	10,700	84,100
Zinc-base alloy	142,000	14,200	10,000	80,500
Other uses ²	58,300	5,800	4,160	32,700
Grand total	919,000	87,200	66,600	522,000

^PPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes zinc used in making zinc dust, desilvering lead, powder, alloys, anodes, chemicals, casting, light metal alloys, rolled zinc, and miscellaneous uses not elsewhere specified.

TABLE 4
SHIPMENTS OF ZINC METAL FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENSE STOCKPILE ¹

(Metric tons)

Period	Shipments	Ending inventory ²
2010:		
July	--	7,490
August	--	7,490
September	--	7,490
October	--	7,490
November	--	7,490
December	--	7,490
January–December	1	7,490
2011:		
January	--	7,490
February	--	7,490
March	--	7,490
April	--	7,490
May	--	7,490
June	--	7,490
July	--	7,490
January–July	--	7,490

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes only uncommitted inventory.

Source: DLA Strategic Materials.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ZINC ¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2010		2011			
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	July		January–July	
			Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	32,200	\$43,700	363	\$825	15,900	\$26,300
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	671,000	1,450,000	49,600	116,000	399,000	939,000
Zinc alloys	7,220	15,900	5,500	12,600	24,100	56,500
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	2,630	7,710	234	731	1,760	5,370
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	3,440	15,300	396	1,750	2,050	9,060
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	19,200	2,190	2,480	7,750	10,100
Powders, flakes, dust	31,600	88,400	2,390	6,900	17,700	53,400
Waste and scrap	15,600	19,400	1,610	1,980	10,300	13,300
Chemicals:						
Oxide	94,300	185,000	9,630	17,100	57,200	117,000
Chloride	405	1,290	10	112	192	837
Sulfate	37,500	32,300	3,580	3,520	29,000	28,200
Compounds, other ²	4,040	7,030	564	1,040	2,400	4,220

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes zinc sulfide (HTS 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (HTS 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (HTS 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS OF ZINC, BY TYPE OF MATERIAL AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material and country	General imports			Imports for consumption		
	2010	2011		2010	2011	
		July	January–July		July	January–July
Ore and concentrate (zinc content):						
Canada	64	363	2,480	64	363	2,480
Mexico	20	--	2,800	20	--	2,800
Netherlands	89	--	81	89	--	81
Peru	32,100	--	9,100	32,100	--	9,100
Turkey	--	--	1,270	--	--	1,270
United Kingdom	--	--	155	--	--	155
Total	32,200	363	15,900	32,200	363	15,900
Refined (slab) zinc:						
Australia	--	--	4,000	--	--	7,530
Brazil	3,010	99	4,090	3,010	99	4,090
Canada	506,000	34,200	264,000	506,000	34,200	264,000
China	180	5	54	216	5	54
Japan	3,990	--	1,420	3,990	--	1,420
Kazakhstan	1,000	--	--	1,000	--	--
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	310	--	100
Mexico	79,500	9,390	49,900	79,500	9,390	49,900
Namibia	--	--	27,900	--	--	27,900
Peru	24,900	4,890	38,200	28,100	4,890	38,400
Russia	4,740	--	1,480	4,740	--	1,480
South Africa	508	--	--	508	--	--
Spain	47	--	--	43,600	1,040	3,640
Other	60	--	31	107	--	31
Total	623,000	48,600	391,000	671,000	49,600	399,000
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	17,900	2,190	7,750	17,900	2,190	7,750
Grand total	674,000	51,100	415,000	721,000	52,200	422,000
Oxide:						
Argentina	464	--	--	464	--	--
Australia	173	93	803	173	93	803
Belgium	242	197	377	242	197	377
Brazil	322	--	--	322	--	--
Canada	50,900	3,660	28,700	50,900	3,660	28,700
China	1,650	24	239	1,650	24	239
Colombia	41	--	--	41	--	--
Germany	818	121	1,830	818	121	1,830
Japan	2,700	361	1,590	2,700	361	1,590
Mexico	27,700	2,350	16,300	27,700	2,350	16,300
Netherlands	5,550	436	3,490	5,550	436	3,490
Peru	2,390	791	1,950	2,390	791	1,950
Spain	728	--	--	728	--	--
Turkey	310	1,520	1,660	310	1,520	1,660
United Arab Emirates	--	40	140	--	40	140
United Kingdom	121	--	6	121	--	6
Other	332	42	130	332	42	130
Total	94,300	9,630	57,200	94,300	9,630	57,200

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ZINC¹

(Gross weight, unless otherwise specified)

Material	2011					
	2010		July		January–July	
	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (metric tons)	Value (thousands)
Ore and concentrate (zinc content)	752,000	\$903,000	157,000	\$254,000	240,000	\$362,000
Unwrought:						
Refined (slab) zinc	4,200	4,320	816	865	13,000	13,700
Zinc alloys	11,400	29,300	1,370	3,410	8,750	23,000
Wrought:						
Bars, rods, profiles, wire	27,800	53,300	2,190	3,080	15,300	23,200
Plates, sheets, strip, foil	7,380	21,900	485	1,490	5,420	16,400
Other:						
Dross, ashes, fume (zinc content)	13,500	10,700	3,040	869	12,800	6,560
Powders, flakes, dust	14,900	33,600	1,280	2,650	9,220	20,100
Waste and scrap	77,900	85,200	7,080	8,530	50,100	54,600
Chemicals:						
Oxide	16,700	36,700	1,470	4,050	13,600	27,000
Chloride	1,930	2,950	129	219	1,070	1,730
Sulfate	1,870	2,360	14	21	84	118
Compounds, other ²	6,360	11,700	384	656	3,080	5,020

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

²Includes zinc sulfide (Schedule B 2830.90.1000 and 2830.90.1500), chromates of zinc or of lead (Schedule B 2841.90.4500), and lithopone and other pigments and preparations based on zinc sulfide (Schedule B 3206.42.0000).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8
AVERAGE PRICES FOR SPECIAL HIGH GRADE ZINC

Period	North	London Metal Exchange	
	American ¹	cash ²	
	¢/lb.	¢/lb.	\$/t
2010:			
July	87.89	83.61	1,843.39
August	97.37	92.72	2,044.12
September	102.34	97.57	2,151.00
October	112.35	107.58	2,371.79
November	108.95	103.92	2,291.14
December	108.46	103.43	2,280.29
January–December	101.98	97.99	2,160.31
2011:			
January	112.57	107.55	2,370.96
February	117.03	111.80	2,464.70
March	112.36	106.54	2,348.91
April	114.01	107.59	2,372.00
May	104.41	97.98	2,160.01
June	108.38 ^r	101.15	2,230.08
July	115.93	108.41	2,389.99
January–July	112.10	105.86	2,333.81

^rRevised.

¹Platts Metals Week North American price. Based on the London Metal Exchange cash price plus premiums or discounts, depending on market conditions.

²Average of the cash buyer price and the cash seller and settlement price.

Source: Platts Metals Week.